

LYNCHBURG CITY COUNCIL

Agenda Item Summary

MEETING DATE: **September 30, 2003, Work Session**

AGENDA ITEM NO.: 2

CONSENT:

REGULAR: **X**

CLOSED SESSION:

(Confidential)

ACTION: **X**

INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: **Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan, 2003**

RECOMMENDATION: Endorse the Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan, 2003.

SUMMARY: This plan was prepared by Greenways, Inc., consultants under contract to the Region 2000 Regional Commission. It presents a concept for development of greenways and blueways throughout the region. Specific locations of Lynchburg greenways and the types of trails, if any, in those greenways will be the prerogative of the City. Eventual adoption of this plan by the Regional Commission will provide a governance/coordination committee and support staff for implementation of the regional plan. A major objective of the committee and staff will be identification of funding sources for the greenways and related facilities (e.g., trails, parking, restrooms, and information kiosks).

A steering committee with representation from all the localities oversaw preparation of the plan. The public has had several opportunities to review and comment on the plan during its preparation.

Following endorsement of the plan by all the participating localities, the plan will be presented to the Region 2000 Regional Commission for approval, now scheduled for the Regional Commission's January 2004 meeting.

PRIOR ACTION(S):

August 13, 2003	Planning Commission endorsement of regional plan.
February 2003	A second series of public meetings on the draft plan is held in the region.
January 2003	Consultant presents a Conceptual Framework Plan to the steering committee and the Public.
October 2002	A community meeting was held in Lynchburg to obtain input for the plan.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The regional plan itself will not have a financial impact on the City. However, as the City decides which greenways to develop, financial resources will need to be found. Some of those costs may be borne by the private sector and others may be covered by grants.

CONTACT(S):

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Kay Frazier / 847-1640, ext. 128
Tom Martin / 847-1508, ext. 226
Judith Wiegand / 847-1508, ext. 236
Kelly Hitchcock, Region 2000 Regional Commission, 845-3491

ATTACHMENT(S):

- ◆ Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan (provided in an earlier mailing)
- ◆ Memo: A History of Trails in Lynchburg and the Development of the Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan (provided earlier with copies of the plan)

REVIEWED BY: lkp

BE IT RESOLVED That the Council of the City of Lynchburg hereby approves the Greenways & Blueways Plan, 2003, that was prepared by Greenways, Inc. for the development of greenways and blueways throughout the Region 2000 area.

Adopted:

Certified:

Clerk of Council

163L



MEMORANDUM

The Department of Community Planning & Development

Planning Division

847-1508

To: Members of the City Council
From: Judith Wiegand, Senior Planner *JW*
Subj: Regional Greenways & Blueways Plan
Date: August 29, 2003

Attached is a copy of the *Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan*, as prepared by Greenways, Inc., consultants under contract to the Region 2000 Regional Commission. I am also including a memo outlining the history of trails in Lynchburg and the development of the greenways plan.

This item will be on the Council agenda for the September 30, 2003, worksession. Because of the length of the plan, I have asked Pat Kost to distribute these copies further in advance of the meeting than you would normally receive it.

The agenda summary for this plan will be prepared and included in your packets for the worksession according to the usual schedule.

Thank you.



THE CITY OF LYNCHBURG, VIRGINIA

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A History of Trails in Lynchburg and the Development of the Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan

A Brief History of Trails in Lynchburg

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|------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1934 | The Lynchburg City Plan proposes a new park along Blackwater Creek. |
| 1969 | The Blackwater Creek Natural Area Feasibility Study begins. |
| 1971 | The Blackwater Creek Plan is completed. |
| 1974 | Construction of the Blackwater Creek Natural Area (Phase I) begins (<i>Virginia Commission of Outdoor Recreation & local monies used</i>).
Blackwater Creek Natural Area Plan updated. |
| 1975 | The group Friends of Lynchburg Streams & Valleys is formed. |
| 1977 | The Blackwater Creek Natural Area Master Plan is completed. |
| 1979 | The Blackwater Creek Natural Area & Ruskin Freer Preserve are dedicated (including 3.7 miles of the Blackwater Creek Bikeway). |
| 1981 | The Blackwater Creek Bikeway becomes a National Recreational Trail. |
| 1998 | The Hollins Mill Handicapped Access Trail is completed (<i>Virginia Department of Transportation & local monies</i>).
The Percival's Island Access bridge & parking is completed (<i>Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation</i>).
The Lynchburg Master Trails Team is formed. |
| 1999 | The James River Heritage Trail is officially named. |
| 2000 | The James River Heritage Trail Phase I is completed (<i>Intermodal Surface Transportation Enhancement Act</i>). |

The Region 2000 Regional Commission Planning Process

June 2001	The Region 2000 Regional Commission requests that the City of Lynchburg appoint three members to the Region 2000 Regional Commission's Steering Committee to develop the Pedestrian/Alternate Transportation Study/Needs Assessment. The City appoints: Laurel Foot, citizen and member of the Natural Bridge chapter of the Appalachian Trail Club; Kay Frazier/Andrew Reeder, Parks & Recreation representatives; and Judith Wiegand, representative of Community Planning & Development. Additionally, each of the cities and four counties in the planning district appoint members. A complete list of members is attached.
July 2001	Committee members decide to focus their efforts on a regional greenways system.
August 2001	Region 2000 enlists the aid of the National Park Service's Rivers and Trails Program.
August 2001 - June 2002	The steering committee develops the Regional Greenway/Infrastructure Feasibility Study. The Study provides the justification, framework, potential partners, and recommended plan of action toward the development of a Regional Greenways Plan. The Feasibility Study is adopted by the Regional Commission in July 2002.
March 2002	The Regional Commission receives a Rural Transportation Planning Grant in the amount of \$40,000 and the Central Virginia Metropolitan Planning Organization provides \$20,000 support for the development of a Regional 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan.
April 2002	The Department of Community Planning & Development decides to incorporate the regional plan into the City's Comprehensive Plan.
July 2002	Region 2000 receives 11 responses to its RFP for development of a Greenways & Blueways Plan. Committee members evaluate and rank the 11. Four are selected for formal presentations to the committee.
August 2002	Greenways, Inc. of Durham, NC, selected as consultant to develop Greenways & Blueways Plan.
September 2002	Work Plan, Scope of Services (and Deliverables) completed for preparation of Greenways & Blueways Plan. Draft Vision and Goals prepared by committee.
October 2002	Four Community Meetings held in Lynchburg and three other locations to obtain public input for the plan. Individual stakeholders also interviewed by consultants.
November 2002	Committee works out possible governance structure for regional plan that leaves the decisions in the hands of the various municipalities and coordination of efforts and possible funding with Region 2000.
January 2003	Greenways, Inc. presents a Conceptual Framework Plan to the committee and to the Regional Commission.
February 2003	A second series of public meetings is held to obtain input on the Conceptual Plan.
April 2003	Draft Plan presented to the committee and comments received, including adjustments to the list of priority projects for each municipality.

- June 2003 Greenways, Inc. presents the final version of the plan to the members of the committee.
- July 2003 The Final Plan is presented to the Regional Commission for review and approval. The Regional Commission and the MPO acknowledge the completion of the Plan and approve the development of an organizational structure. The organizational structure will be presented to the Commission and adoption of the Plan considered in January 2004.

Next Steps

- August 2003 Region 2000 Greenways & Blueways Plan presented to the Lynchburg Planning Commission for review and endorsement.
- September 2003 Region 2000 Regional Greenways & Blueways Plan presented to the Lynchburg City Council for review and endorsement.
- August 2003 -
December 2003 The Regional Commission and the Greenway Steering committee members present the Plan to each locality's planning commission and governing body. The Greenway Steering Committee continues to meet to establish a governance structure to be presented to the Commission in January 2004.

Current Projects

- Kemper Street Trail designed and constructed to connect the Kemper Street Station to the Hollins Mill portion of the Blackwater Creek Bikeway.
- Regional planning for the James River Heritage Trail
- Design and construction of a wooden-covered pedestrian bridge across Blackwater Creek that connects the Blackwater Creek Bikeway with the Point of Honor Trail.
- Ivy Creek Bikeway and Peaks View Mountain Bike Trails: construction of 1.2 miles of multi-use asphalt trail and 8 miles of earthen, single-track mountain bike/hike trails in Peaks View Park.
- Restroom construction at the Ed Page Entrance to the Blackwater Creek Bikeway.
- Cancer Awareness Garden: design and installation of a garden to be located at the Ed Page Entrance to the Blackwater Creek Bikeway.